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**ABSTRACT**

A software installation manager for use in a data network. The software installation manager exchanges  
5 messages with individual nodes of a set of nodes for directing the installation of a software product on the nodes of the set in parallel according to a non-blocking sequence. The non-blocking sequence is characterized in that the installation of a software product on one node of  
10 the set does not block the installation of the software product on another node of the set.